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Message from Dorothy

Dear 4-H families and volunteers,

It is fair season again, and I know many of you are preparing to participate in 4-H at your county fairs this summer. I know you, like I, enjoy seeing the wonderful accomplishments of our youth.

For the third year, we will be live streaming some of our 4-H events at the Minnesota State Fair!

Our goal is to provide a way for 4-H families and friends who are unable to come to the fair to see some of the 4-H fun from home. The live stream is provided on the internet, so you can watch from computers, laptops, smart phones or any mobile device with internet service. Here is the live stream event line-up:

- Dairy goat judging: 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Friday, Aug. 28
- Lama costume competition: 6-7 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 2
- Performing arts in the 4-H building: 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 26-Monday, Sept. 7

You can watch 12 hours of state fair activities live every day of the fair here 4-H.umn.edu/state-fair/4-h-live-cam/.

The Arts-In performance recording will be available on our website and on the Minnesota 4-H Youtube channel after the fair is over.

I hope those of you who can't join us in person enjoy seeing some of our wonderful 4-H'ers who are sharing their learning and accomplishments at the Minnesota State Fair this year!

Sincerely,

Dorothy M. Freeman
Associate dean and state 4-H director

Lunchstand Wish List

The lunchstand is in need of a few items! If you or your club would like to donate anything, please contact the Extension Office at 968-5077!

Money, onions, boxed spaghetti, jarred spaghetti sauce, American cheese, shredded cheese, butter, Large dill pickles, coffee, carrot sticks, tomatoes, lettuce heads, sour cream, nacho chips large bags or the individual for nacho and cheese, bottled water, loaf bread, napkins, 6in plates, 10 in plates, to go boxes, dish towels, sharp knives, cutting boards, plastic wrap, parchment paper, aluminum foil, gloves, dish soap.

Poultry Project Registration

As you know, the poultry industry in Minnesota is facing a crisis with Avian Flu. As a result, the Minnesota Board of Animal Health has banned Poultry activities involving live birds including County and State Fair Poultry Shows. This decision has affected the way 4-H will showcase Poultry project members in fair settings this summer.

The State Fair Show Committee, selected youth, poultry partners and 4-H staff came together to develop the framework for County and State Fairs for the summer of 2015. This group is highly dedicated to provide educational opportunities for 4-H members enrolled in poultry. The Benton County Small Animals Committee has also worked to brainstorm opportunities and ways to make the poultry project participation possible at this summer's county fair. Although these activities cannot include live birds, they will actively engage youth in meaningful and fun activities.

At the 2015 Benton County poultry project participants will be able to participate in the county 4-H poultry project in four different ways. All opportunities/classes are optional but we encourage youth to participate in them all. A letter and registration form to sign up for these four classes were sent to all poultry project members in June. Please call the office with any questions regarding this year's poultry show.
4-H Project Records

What exactly is a 4-H project? A 4-H project is set up to be a yearlong learning process. 4-H projects are supposed to start in the fall when a 4-H member sets learning goals for the year. Then the member actually does a learning project. The project can be anything including workshops, book reading, fair projects, etc. After the learning is completed, then the member should reflect upon what they did. A 4-H project record is the best way to track and reflect on project learning. They really help make the projects come full circle. 4-H projects should not be just about the fair exhibit or the premium, it really needs to be focused on learning, doing and reflecting.

Benton County 4-H is making a push to get more youth to complete record, part of that is a new record implementation guide, and new project specific records. The Implementation Guide can be found online at http://z.umn.edu/bentonrecords. Project specific project records can be downloaded online from http://z.umn.edu/benton4h or requested in paper form from the Extension Office. 4-H records are due September 30th. Members completing records will be eligible for prizes.

Benton Clover University

Attention All New 4-H Members & Cloverbuds! We have a special event coming up that is just for you, “Benton Clover University”. This event will start at 4:00 p.m. on July 30th, meeting at the 4-H Exhibit Building. Registration is required by July 24th, and the cost is $2 per participant. Contact the Extension Office for more information!

Judges Assistants Needed

Have you ever wondered how a certain project area is judged? Are you interested in a different project area? How about you just want to volunteer your time?

If that is the case please sign up to be a 4-H Judges Assistant! An assistant can be a youth or adult who helps out on the exhibit day. Assistants place exhibit cards and stickers on projects, record on the judge’s sheet the ribbons placing and help put together the display for that project area. Lunch will be provided for judges assistants. For more information or to sign up, please call Jessi at 320-968-5077!

Exhibit Building Set Up Help

August 3

4-H is in need of some volunteers to help “set” the exhibit building on Monday, August 3rd at 4:30p.m. Adult volunteers will be arranging each project area to look nice for the opening day of the fair. Come for the entire time or a short period of time to help out. Please contact the office for more information!

Lunchstand Dress Reminder

Don’t forget that we need to follow a dress code for health reasons as put out by the Minnesota Department of Health. Hair must be pulled back, feel free to bring your own baseball cap or bandana, otherwise a hairnet will be provided. Anyone who shows up to work wearing flip flops will not be allowed to work until they can find better shoes.

Livestock Plaques

Anyone winning a plaque at a show will receive their ribbon and a thank you card to the donor during the show. After the show, the winning exhibitor is to write a thank you to the plaque donor and bring it to the 4-H office in the exhibit building. At this time, the exhibitor will receive their plaque.
Tractor Driving Contest

The 4-H and FFA tractor driving contest is scheduled for Thursday, August 6th at 10:30 a.m. Meet at the 4-H exhibit building and you will be directed to the correct spot. If any adult would like to volunteer to help out with the contest, please contact Heidi at the office.

Livestock Quality Assurance & Ethics (LQA&E)

If you missed the training that Benton County hosted in March and need it yet, please visit http://z.umn.edu/lqae to find a session in another county. This training is required to show livestock at the Minnesota State Fair, and it is good for three years. If you are unsure of your LQA&E status, call the Extension Office at 320-968-5077 sooner, rather than later.

State Fair Meeting

The State Fair meetings will again all be held on Sunday of the County Fair (not on Tuesday night). General Exhibitors will meet at 1:00 p.m. and the livestock exhibitors will meet at 2:30 p.m. Families are strongly encouraged to pick up your state fair packets from the 4-H exhibit building during the fair (you can pick them up as soon as you win your trip). You are also encouraged to turn in your paperwork during the county fair, before the meetings (you still are required to attend the meeting) and you can also make payment.

State Fair Chaperones

Benton County 4-H is in need of both male and female chaperones for the 2015 State Fair, for both the General and Livestock encampment. Benton County 4-H will pay for all of the chaperoning fees, including meals, lodging, gate tickets, transportation (with the bus) and State Fees. This is a great opportunity and we would love to have you come on board! Contact Heidi at the Extension Office for more information. All chaperones must be screened 4-H volunteers.

4-H alumni at the Minnesota State Fair

Do you plan on visiting the state fair this summer? The Minnesota 4-H alumni & friends community is looking for alumni who can volunteer a few hours during the fair. Volunteers who fill a 3-hour shift in either the 4-H building or the 4-H livestock areas will receive a complimentary gate ticket and alumni t-shirt (must be 19 years or older). To learn more, visit z.umn.edu/4Halumni. We’d love to see you there!

Get the app! 4-H at the Minnesota State Fair

If you have a smart phone and you’re going to the state fair, you should download our free app! It combines all of our state fair communications into one place:

- Judging results
- Public schedule
- Interactive map
- Livestock shows and general projects announcements in real time - switch on the alerts function, and you won't even need to open the app!
  - MN4HBeef
  - MN4HDairy
  - NEW: MN4HSheep
  - MN4HAnnounce for all other projects

State fair winners and families, volunteers, staff and all fairgoers interested in 4-H will find it useful. Download it from the iTunes or Google Play store.

If you don’t have a smart phone, you can receive these messages on your cell phone by texting “Follow MN4HAnnounce” to 40404. Text “STOP” when you want them to stop. These accounts are active during the state fair.

To join a conversation about 4-H, use the Twitter app and follow MN4H.
General & livestock demonstrations

$30 awards will be given to all 4-Hers who complete a 4-H demonstration during general encampment and livestock encampment. This includes livestock & general encampment, illustrated talks, and Youth in Action presentations.

New in 2015! 4-Hers doing Avian Flu demonstrations at the county fair will receive a $30 cash incentive. This includes 4-Hers who are not yet state fair eligible. There will be an additional $50 award for Avian Flu demonstrations at the state fair!

For the livestock demonstration:

- Each county is allowed one additional state fair livestock trip for a livestock demonstration exhibitor.
- All livestock demonstrations must incorporate a live animal into the demonstration.
- The 4-Her must demonstrate on livestock weekend and can also participate in all other species activities (show, interviews, showmanship).
- Counties may add one additional state fair trip in the species area of the demonstration.

EquiMania

Do you love being around people at the state fair? Want a free ticket and a cool t-shirt? Volunteer for two hours at the award-winning EquiMania! exhibit in the horse barn. Horse knowledge is not required - the exhibit activities are easy and fun for guests. EquiMania is a great opportunity for families, friends, 4-H clubs, small group and individuals to participate at the fair and have a great time doing it! The Minnesota State Fair is just around the corner...and is very much in need of volunteers for this year's fair! Please consider volunteering for a short two hour shift! We welcome all volunteers, so please be sure to share this fantastic opportunity with your friends, families, and colleagues!

Email us at Equimania@mnstatefair.org or call 651-288-4480 today! More info at mnstatefair.org

4-H scholarship opportunities

High school seniors and college students -- check out the Minnesota Livestock Breeders Association Scholarship (MLBA) and Minnesota State Fair Scholarship Program (formally known as Hallberg Scholarship) opportunities at www.extension.umn.edu/youth/scholarships/.

Minnesota 4-H Livestock Quality Assurance and Ethics (LQA&E) Policy

All youth participating as a state fair 4-H livestock exhibitor in beef, dairy, sheep, swine, poultry, rabbits, meat and dairy goat and lama must have completed the Livestock Quality Assurance and Ethics Workshop. Certification is required prior to the county fair qualifying show and is good for three fair seasons. The level of training required is determined by the grade of the youth at the time the training takes place.

Please contact your local extension office or visit 4-H.umn.edu/projects/animal-science/lqae/index.html for training near you.

Minnesota 4-H Dairy Showcase: Honoring Blue Ribbon Kids

This event recognizes overall achievement of Minnesota 4-H Dairy Project exhibitors that have demonstrated year-round participation within 4-H and the dairy industry including:
• success with the animal
• knowledge of the dairy project and industry
• involvement within 4-H and dairy communities
• activities in school, church and community

The Minnesota 4-H Dairy Showcase will recognize the top 25 4-H Dairy Project members that exhibit at the Minnesota State Fair. Complete details and online portfolio are available at www.4-H.umn.edu/events/dairy-showcase.html.

Minnesota 4-H Poultry Prince & Princess Contest

The Minnesota 4-H Poultry Prince & Princess Contest is a scholarship program offered by Minnesota 4-H and Gold’n Plump. The Poultry Prince & Princess Contest details are available at www.4-H.umn.edu/events/poultry-prince-princess.html.

Minnesota 4-H is again hosting “Chef for a Day Cook-Off!”

The Chef for a Day Cook-Off will be held during all state fair encampments, and open to all 4-H state fair exhibitors. Each county will provide a team of 3-5 exhibitors for a two hour program during livestock encampment and every general encampment. The first hour will include an educational activity, and the second hour will be the Chef for a Day Cook-Off! All equipment will be supplied as well as all of the meat, and some possible ingredients. Teams may bring additional ingredients but note that no refrigeration is supplied. There will be no morning assignments -- but there will be prizes!

4-H summer employment opportunities

A variety of employment opportunities are available at 4-H state-level summer events. Applications are accepted up to five working days prior to the event. Additional details are available at www.4-h.umn.edu/state-fair/employment/.

Share the Fun reminder

State fair Share the Fun nominations/applications are available as of June 1. Rehearsal times are assigned on a first come, first served basis upon receipt of the nomination/application forms. More information can be found at www.4-H.umn.edu/events/share-the-fun.html.

Minnesota 4-H State Horse Show

Mark your calendar: The annual Minnesota 4-H Horse Show will be held September 18-21, 2015. Watch the Minnesota 4-H horse website for more information at www.4-H.umn.edu/projects/animal-science/horse.

Minnesota 4-H Dog Show

Mark your calendar: The Minnesota 4-H Dog Show will be held September 26-27, 2015. Watch the Minnesota 4-H dog website for more details at www.4-H.umn.edu/events/state-dog-show.html.

Premium book only available online

The 4-H at the Minnesota State Fair premium book will only be available online! You can access it at www.4-H.umn.edu/state-fair/resources.html.
SS&W Ambassador Program seeking applications for new Ambassadors!

The Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Ambassador Program is a leadership opportunity for youth leaders, grades 9-13, to promote and enhance Minnesota 4-H shooting sports. Ambassadors positively represent the Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Program at state, regional, and local levels. Youth must be starting grade 9-13 in the fall and be able to attend the October 3-4 training in Perham.

Program information, application, and reference forms can be found at:

4-H.umn.edu/projects/shooting-sports/shooting-sports/

Applications for new Shooting Sports & Wildlife Ambassadors are due August 24, 2015.

Fall 2015 Shooting Sports & Wildlife Leader Certification Training

The Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Program Development Committee invites you to attend a 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Leader Certification! The committee recommends that leaders attend the entire certification weekend every five years. Now is your chance to attend!

The training is designed for adults and youth (grade nine and older) that lead or would like to lead training in shooting sports or wildlife. Classes will be offered in the disciplines of coordinator, archery, rifle/pistol, shotgun, muzzleloading, and wildlife. This training meets the 4-H project leaders’ requirements for certification and recertification. Although there is range time allocated in the schedule, the majority of the training is classroom work to become an effective instructor, not to practice your own shooting skills.

The training will take place October 3-4, 2015 at the Perham Middle School and Fort Thunder Gun Club in Perham.

Registration materials are available at 4-H.umn.edu/events/shooting-sports-certification/. The deadline to register is September 18, 2015. Disciplines fill quickly, so make sure registration forms are sent in early!

4-H volunteer corner

4-H chaperones and the Minnesota State Fair

In the Minnesota 4-H program the state fair is recognized as the grand finale of the summer. Each year “The Great Minnesota Get-Together” provides over 6,500 4-H members with the opportunity to showcase their projects at the state level. This would not be possible without 4-H chaperones. Serving as a 4-H chaperone is an important responsibility. Prior to chaperoning any 4-H program, including the state fair, training is required. The training modules cover roles, expectations and best practices to help ensure youth have a quality educational experience. Serving as chaperones provides a valuable service and enables caring adults the opportunity to positively shape the life experiences of many young people.

The online training, 4-H chaperone policies: A guide for 4-H adult chaperones, found at 4-umn.edu/volunteer/online-training/, offers valuable information to help ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for the youth and the adult chaperones.

4-H Volunteer Training 24/7

4-H has a comprehensive and multi-format system of training and support for the thousands of volunteers who deliver 4-H youth development programs to young people across the state. Much of that training is provided face-to-face. But we know that providing some training opportunities online will help our volunteers more easily access the training and resources they need, when they need it. Minnesota 4-H offers a series of dynamic,
interactive 30-minute online training modules to help volunteers build their skills and knowledge from home at any time of the day or night. Check out current online volunteer training topics:

- Creating a welcoming, engaging and encouraging environment for youth
- The 4-H learning environment
- 4-H project leaders: Where the action starts!
- Managing 4-H clubs: A guide for 4-H club leaders
- 4-H financial management
- Ensuring a safe 4-H environment
- Chaperone training
- Keeping youth in 4-H

Training modules for individual viewing can be accessed through any adult volunteer account on www.4honline.com/. A detailed user guide is available at www.4-h.umn.edu/volunteer/online-training. We’re striving for 25% of Minnesota 4-H volunteers to complete at least one online volunteer training module by September 30, 2015. Which one will you try?

Calendar

 AUGUST
 • 3  County Fair Entry Day
 • 4-9  Benton County Fair
 • 24  Shooting Sports & Wildlife Ambassador applications due
 • 27 - Sept. 7 Minnesota State Fair
 • 26-30  State Fair Livestock Encampment
 • 28  Live-streaming of the 4-H Dairy and Market Goat Show 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
 • 31  Live-streaming of 4-H State Arts-In performance 5-5:30 p.m.

 SEPTEMBER
 • 2  Live-streaming of the 4-H Lama Costume Competition 6-7 p.m.
 • 5-7  State Fair General Encampment
 • 7  Office Closed – Labor Day
 • 11-13  Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Invitational
 • 18-21  Minnesota 4-H Horse Show
 • 26-27  Minnesota 4-H Dog Show
 • 27  Leader’s Council Meeting

 OCTOBER
 • 3-4  Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Ambassador training, Perham